THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Gold Loan for Jewellery Exports

875. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MMTC is giving gold loan to the jewellery exporters;

(b) if so, the terms and condition laid down for granting gold loan to them; and

(c) the total quantum of gold loaned/ sanctioned and the jewellery exported during 1994-95; 1995-96 and 1996-97 as on date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The terms and conditions for grant of gold on loan are indicated in Chapter VIII Para 152 (21) of the Handbook of Procedures. Vol I and REP Circular No. 2/96 dated Ist February, 1996.

(c) Data on total quantum of gold loaned/sanctioned and jewellery exported state-wise is not maintained.

Price Rise of Coking/Non-Coking Coal

876. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently raised the prices of coking and non-coking coal;

(b) if so, percentage of hike in the prices of coal;

(c) the reasons for raising the prices of coal; and

(d) the likely impact on the industrial production and the market prices of finished goods, besides on the power sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The Government deregulated prices of coking coal and A, B and C grades of non-coking coal vide notification dated 22.3.1996. Coal Companies are now competent to fix the prices of these varieties. Further in accordance with the recommendation of the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP) a notification was issued increasing the price of regulated grades of coal produced in Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) to the level notified for Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) this was issued on 22.3.1996. Separate prices have also been notified for the Ramagundam OC-II mine of SCCL on 9.1.1996 and the Rajmahal OC project of Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) on 22.4.1996.

(b) Percentage of increase in prices of coal produced from the mines of WCL and from the Ramgundam OC-II mine and Rajmahal OC project are given in the Statement (*see* below).

(c) Higher prices for coal produced from the mines of SCCL have always been fixed taking into account the geomining conditions in which it operates. Since WCL also operates in the same geomining conditions BICP have recommended prices for coal produced from the mines of WCL to be fixed at the level of prices charged for coal produced from the mines of SCCL.

(d) The likely impact of price increase of coal on important sectors is as follows:—

Steel	: Rs. 293 per tonne
Power	: 2 paise per KWH
Cement	: Rs. 14.16 per tonne

Statement

Percentage of increase in prices of WCL coal and the coal produced from the Ramagundam OC-II mine and the

Rajmahal OC projects over the prices as fixed on 16.6.1994.

WESTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED

Grades of Coal	Percentage of increase w.e.f. 22.3.1996 per tonne
Non-coking	
Grade - D	43.84%
Grade - E	50.93%
Grade - F	57.58%

RAMAGUNDAM OC-II MINE

	Percentage of increase w.e.f. 9.1.1996 per tonne
Coal produced from Ramagundam OC-II mines	43.18%

RAJMAHAL OC PROJECTS

	Percentage of increase w.e.f. 22.4.1996 per tonne.
Coal produced from Rajmahal OC projects	57.20%

Implementation of Common Minimum Programme

877. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details about the implementation of the commitment made in the Common Minimum Programme regarding 50% subsidy on issue prices to the poorest of the poor;

(b) additional financial burden that will have to be borne by the Central Government and the number of people will benefit out of this Scheme;

(c) the total number of people covered by the public Distribution System in the country and what will be the total cost of subsidy involved in it during 1996-97; and

(d) the criteria adopted by Government for identifying the poorest of the poor and what is likely to be total number of such persons?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (d) Government proposes to streamline the Public Distribution System (PDS) with its focus on the poor. The details are being worked out in consultation with the State Governments.

Demand to enhance IR by National Federation of Newspapers and News Agency

878. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) National Federation of Newspapers and News Agency Employees has demanded to Government to issue notification to enhance the percentage of interim relief immediately; and

(b) if so, reaction of Government?

THE MINISTER OF LABOAUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) The matter is under consideration of the Government and a final decision will be taken soon.

12.00 NOON

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

1. **Report and Accounts (1994-95) of the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India, Kanpur and related papers**
2. **Report and Accounts (1994-95) of the National Instt. for Visually Handicapped, Dehradun and related papers.**